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Information

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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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no newspaper represents the views of a particular leader or faction because of the organization of the press and the method in which press orientation is handled. even a Politburo member must submit articles for publication to Liri Belishova (Albanian Workers [Communist] Party Central Committee Secretary in Charge of Agit-Prop) to be cleared, and all important material is cleared with Liri Belishova before publication by any newspaper.

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

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The paper is translated into Albanian in Albania and is printed by Zeri i Popullit (ZP) (Voice of the People). About 7,000 copies are printed weekly and are sold for five lek each. Three or four copies are distributed to ZP.

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Foreign news agency releases are distributed in the following manner:

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- (1) Releases from Russian and satellite news agencies are released three times daily in the Blue Bulletin, which is unclassified and is distributed to all ministries, Central Committee members, and to all newspapers and radios. Any limitations on the distribution are for economy reasons.
- (2) Releases from Western news agencies are released three times daily in the Yellow Bulletin, which is classified Secret and is distributed to Central Committee members, ministers, and the newspapers. [redacted] all the newsmen at ZP could see it.
- (3) Western news items concerning Albanian affairs are released in a top secret bulletin distributed to only a very few leaders. [redacted]

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[redacted] Albanian propaganda media receive their orientation on international affairs from Tass, which gives the editorial from Pravda, a daily summary of the Russian press, and international news.

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No special handling is given to Albanian comment on Russian affairs. Most of the material published in Albania concerning the Soviet Union consists of translations of articles from the Russian press. If the article in the Russian press is about a price reduction in the Soviet Union, a writer may be told to use the article and to add something about prices going up in the Western countries. Writers occasionally ask members of delegations (cultural, workers, women) who have visited the Soviet Union to write an article about their visit. The publication has the right to make corrections in the article, but only in collaboration with the writer.

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The ZP article on collective leadership was preceded by Pravda articles and articles from other satellites.

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some people may have supposed that Hoxha's position was lowered, the press successfully prepared public opinion by publishing the Pravda and satellite press articles.

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Agit-Prop's first step in preparing for the policy shift vis-a-vis Yugoslavia was to ignore Yugoslavia completely. After three or four months of this an article appeared describing the visit of Yugoslav leaders to a Soviet Unknown Soldier's Tomb in Yugoslavia. A few days later an item appeared concerning Yugoslav success in the fulfillment of farm quotas. every alert and informed Albanian understood that nothing about fulfillment of norms would be published about an unfriendly country.

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TASS, gave no news concerning Yugoslavia.

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a). There is no coordination between radio propagandists and press writers and editors. Uniformity of the propaganda media is assured by the orientation passed by Liri Belishova to the Chief Editor of ZP (Fadil Pacrami) and the Chief of the Agit-Prop Directorate (Nexhmije Hoxha). Occasionally Radio Tirana would ask ZP writers to supply an article, but this was done on a personal basis and the writer would receive payment for the article. b). There was one person responsible for all foreign broadcasts (the Chief of the Foreign News Section), and broadcasts in all languages were practically the same. News items or commentaries concerning Albania were always the same, as was international news. Broadcasts for a particular

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[REDACTED]

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country might have a few items concerning that country which would not appear in broadcasts in other languages. Newspaper editors have little autonomy. About 80 percent of ZP's content is covered by the monthly and weekly plans. The Chief Editor was in regular contact with Liri Belishova and the Politburo, and would consult with Belishova about the handling of important news events. c). The news and commentary programs were handled by the same section and had the same purpose.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] any article to be published must be forwarded through Liri Belishova. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

Artists and other intellectuals write their own material. Articles from artists will be corrected for style, not for content, but articles from intellectuals are usually left as they are received.

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] no writers or commentators who speak with special authority on any significant subject. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] a section chief in the Ministry of Justice, was called on to write an article on the Montesi scandal. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Any new theme or line will be introduced in ZP, often in an unsigned article or editorial.

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[REDACTED]

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a). The orientation received from Liri Belishova was read to the members of the ZP Collegium by Pacrami. Each of the editors could take notes on his field. The notes were supposed to consist of what the editor had to do, not the wording of the directive. Only Pacrami received a copy of the orientation. The editors in charge of the various sections then instruct their writers on subjects to be covered. Articles from the Soviet press, especially Pravda, are considered models for Albanian reporting. b). Sometimes [redacted] a particular directive came from the Politburo. The usual expression, however, was "orientation from above", which everyone understood to be Liri Belishova without her name being mentioned.

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The editors of the various sections assign tasks to their writers. There are no meetings for orientation of the chief editors of the various newspapers. The only paper published outside Tirana is the Laiken Vite (Popular Tribune), a [redacted] newspaper published weekly in Gjinokaster.

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[redacted] over 80 percent of Radio Tirana material was covered by the monthly and weekly plans, except foreign news, much less of which was covered by the plans. The Foreign News Section was guided in what to broadcast by Tass releases. One section was responsible for all foreign language broadcasts and except for minor differences, the content of all foreign languages broadcasts was the same.

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[redacted] there is much talk of the "Rightist Danger", which [redacted] is used to justify the leftist course of the Party and terroristic measures.

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a). The power of the United States and the Western Powers was avoided, although they did attack them for building bases abroad. In this matter Albanian propaganda media were following Soviet press policy, and every writer knew how to handle the subject without any specific directives. b). Handling of the Balkan Pact gave the Albanian propagandists some trouble. The problem was to show that Yugoslavia have designs on Albania without causing panic. The Albanian line was that only the top cliques agreed to the Pact, and that the peoples are against their leadership and that Albania faces the situation with the most powerful camp. Directives were given to follow this line, but even without them the writers would have worked it out.

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the news broadcasts at 7 a.m., 2 p.m., and 8 p.m., to be the most important. all agitators and propagandists are supposed to listen to the 7 a.m. broadcasts.

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writers

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followed the directives, monthly and weekly plans, and the Soviet press, and did not have the initiative to go outside these bounds.

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Editorials of ZP are of the highest significance. At least 60 percent of the editorials are written by personnel of ZP. An editorial concerning an agrarian problem might be written by a high official in the Ministry of Agriculture, and the article would be put in good form by ZP writers. Editorials concerning other problems, such as communications, health, etc., might be written by persons in the ministries concerned.

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The word "signal" (sinjal) is used in Communist discussions. After the 8th Party Plenum (1948) an article appeared in Bashkimi (Union), then the foremost newspaper in Albania, attacking all intellectuals. This was recognized as a "signal" from Koci Xexa to attack all intellectuals including Hoxha. In 1954 an article appeared giving no names, deprecating too much power in the hands of one man. Some newsmen recognized it as the "signal" for the change to collective leadership. The "signal" for the 1953 economic reforms came from the Soviet press. [redacted] other ways of detecting changes: The "Life of the Party" column of ZP shifted from criticism of factory Party organizations for not watching production, to criticism of the same organization for not looking out for the workers. The number of articles and editorials concerning a particular subject over a period of time indicates the importance it is given by the leadership. The position of a news item (industry above agriculture or vice versa) indicates the importance the subject is given.

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Albanian propagandists use very little initiative. [redacted]

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From 1948 to 1951 or 1952 there were many more anti-Yugoslav articles in the Albanian press than in the Russian press. Newsmen thought then that Albania, Bulgaria and Hungary had been assigned the task of attacking Yugoslavia.

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Albanian propaganda is not censored by Soviet nationals. It stays so close to the Russian line there is no need to. [redacted]

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